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ATHERSTONE
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1946

ATHERSTONE :
E. S. COLMAN, " News " Office, Long Street.
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ATHERSTONE
Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Atherstone.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting my first report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1946. I took over from Dr. H. R. Fisher at mid-year.

The district consists of twelve parishes. The population at the 1931 Census was 21,869, distributed as follows :—

WARWICKSHIRE

			Males	Females	Total
Ansley	..	..	1059	1012	2071
Atherstone	..	..	3085	3160	6245
Baddesley Ensor		..	843	760	1603
Baxterley	..	..	215	193	408
Bentley	..	..	139	118	257
Caldecote	..	..	84	49	133
Grendon	..	..	644	612	1256
Hartshill	..	..	1292	1250	2542
Mancetter		..	353	349	702
Merevale	..	..	42	60	102
Oldbury	..	..	37	47	84
Polesworth	..	..	3407	3059	6466

21,869

The estimate of resident population at mid-year 1946 is 22,310—and it is on this figure that the vital statistics have been taken.

The vital statistics reckoned on the figure of 22,310 are as follows :—

		Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population
Live Births	..	449	38	487	21.8
Still Births	..	9	—		
Deaths				241	10.8

For England and Wales the live birth rate was 19.1 ; and the death rate 11.5 per 1,000 of population.

Twenty-three infants, under the age of one year, died in the district during 1946, giving an infantile mortality rate of 47.2 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths in the district during the year were due to : Heart Disease, 71 ; other diseases of circulatory system, 6 ; Cancer, 35 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 13 ; other forms of Tuberculosis, 2 ; other respiratory diseases, 2 ; Diabetes, 4 ; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 28 ; Bronchitis, 8 ; Pneumonia, 14 ; Influenza, 1 ; Acute Infantile Encephalitis, 2 ; Diarrhœa under two years, 1 ; Appendicitis, 2 ; other digestive diseases, 3 ; Kidney Disease, 8 ; Maternal Causes, 1 ; Premature Birth, Congenital Debility, etc., 14 ; Violence, 8 ; other causes, 18.

Male deaths numbered 129, and Female deaths 112.

Male births numbered 260 and Female births 227.

INFANT WELFARE

There are Centres at Atherstone, Hartshill, Polesworth and Dordon. Each Centre is managed by a Committee of ladies, who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of notifiable infectious diseases cases during 1946 were :—
Scarlet Fever, 15 ; Diphtheria, 4 ; Pneumonia, 46 ; Erysipelas, 8 ; Cerebro-Spinal Fever, 2 ; Acute Poliomyelitis, 2 ; Pphthalia Neonatorum, 2 ; Dysentery, 1 ; Measles, 72 ; Whooping Cough, 77.

The Tuberculosis Register, at 31st December, 1946, shewed 134 cases, comprised as follows :—

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary
69	17	31	17

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

19 cases were treated in the Hospital during 1946, namely 4 cases of Diphtheria and 15 cases of Scarlet Fever.

I am,

Yours truly,

MARK BRADFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices,
Atherstone.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my fourth report on the work of my department during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

GENERAL INSPECTION

The general inspection of the various premises within the district for the discovery of conditions causing or likely to cause nuisance has been carried out. The total number of inspections and re-visits made is 3,792, and the number of defects and nuisances for which notices were given, is 1,964.

The following list gives some of the principal nuisances and defects which have been dealt with.

General Defects on property	1297
Defective closet accommodation	73
Defective and blocked drains	52
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	170
Nuisances from keeping animals	8
Offensive accumulations	7
Conditions at farms and dairies	10

The total number of dwelling-houses inspected for the year, including Rural Housing Survey, is 2,468 and, including re-visits, inspections numbered 2,744.

276 houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation. 229 of these were rendered fit, 47 being transferred to 1947 records.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY

There are 166 farms and cowkeepers in the district. Of these, 121 produce milk for sale, and the following are the numbers of persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Producers in the district	121
Producers outside the district	4
Retail purveyors	50

173 visits of inspection and works in progress were carried out. Generally speaking, the premises, also the animals and milk vessels, are kept in satisfactory condition.

Of the producers in the district, 41 are Accredited and 12 Tuberculin Tested producers.

The following list gives some of the improvements, structural alterations and repairs carried out at farms and dairies in the District during the year.

Farm No. 1 :—

Roofs repaired.

Farm No. 2 :—

New dairy constructed.

Drainage arrangements improved.

Concrete floor and frontage to cowshed.

Farm No. 3 :—

New dairy constructed.

Farm No. 4 :—

Council main water laid on.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, carry out tests for keeping quality twice monthly, from all producers, and owing to there only having been two summer complaints of poor keeping quality, I have not found it desirable to duplicate their good work.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

On the 1st December, 1946, I took over control of this service, along with the duties of Salvage Officer, by arrangement with your Engineer and Surveyor, and sanctioned by the Council.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

A full-time Rodent Operative commenced duties for the Council under the Ministry of Food Scheme, on 20th February, 1946.

On 5th June, 1946, the Private Dwellings—Special Scheme, 1946/7, of the Ministry of Food, was adopted, and thereafter private dwellings were treated free of cost.

To the end of the year, 168 premises were cleared of rats ; 125 of these being treated by the Rodent Operative and 43 by occupiers of premises.

The sewers throughout the District were given an initial treatment in Mid-year, when 440 manholes were baited on consecutive days, and poisoned third day. Of these 337 shewed pre-bait take (59 complete takes on one or both days). Poison takes were not checked. The follow-up three months later over the whole system shewed takes in 142 man-

holes ; the majority of these were small and not one clear take was found. Poison takes were again not checked. Obviously the result of the initial treatment was very satisfactory and whilst no estimate of rats destroyed could be made, the effect was reflected in there being fewer complaints of surface infestations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The slaughter of animals for food for this district is carried out at the Government Abattoir, Nuneaton. The carcasses and offals are inspected there before allocation.

There were approximately 1,550 pigs killed for private consumption in the district in the year. Of these, as time permitted I inspected some 150. Incidence of diseased conditions in these was slight, owing to care in feeding, segregation in general, and cleanliness. Evidence of tuberculosis was present in only two cases, and in neither of these was it advanced or generalised. The disposal of infected organs was directed upon.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations are complied with by the butchers ; also grocers and others are satisfactorily dealing with the storage of hams and bacon.

Premises where food is stored or prepared are inspected. 273 visits were paid to such premises in the year. There are 92 registered premises for the preparation of or manufacture of preserved food, etc.

The following table shews the articles of food which were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption at the premises of grocers, butchers, greengrocers, etc. The same were destroyed.

Number	Details	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
28	Eggs (Rotten and Broken)			2
181	Tins Meat, Milk, Fruit, Fish, Vegetables, etc. (Blown, holed, etc.)	1	2	26
257	Tins Milk, Meat, Fruit, Fish, etc. (Unsaleable condition)*	2	1	19
—	Oranges (Rotten)	5		13
—	Sausages (Decomposition)		1	22
—	Bacon and Ham (Decomposition) ..		2	22
—	Butter and Margarine (Contaminated) ..			3
—	Butter and Margarine (Damaged in Transit)*		2	
—	Cereals (Contaminated, Mites, etc.) ..		1	20
—	Cooked Meats (Decomposition)			8
—	Fish (Decomposition)		2	
—	Fat Extender (Contaminated)	1	2	
—	Butchers' Meat (Decomposition)		2	17
	Items marked "*" were salvaged	14	—	12

FACTORIES

There are 112 factories on the registers. Of these 25 are bakehouses.

The premises are visited at intervals as shewn by the table below.

There are 77 outworkers employed by hat manufacturers in the district.

The following table shews the numbers of inspections made, defects found, remedied, etc.

Details	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories where Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A.	2	—	—
(ii) Factories where Sec. 7 only enforced by L.A.	71	5	—
		Defects found	Defects Remedied
Unsatisfactory means fire escape	..	2	2
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	..	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	..	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	..	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	..	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	..	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)			
(a) insufficient	..	2	1
(b) unsuitable or defective	..	1	—
(c) not separate for sexes	..	—	—

The sanitary condition of factories has been well maintained. One complaint only was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. This was of a sanitary convenience at a garage which was not provided with an intervening ventilated space (referred to in the table above under (b). Owing to the garage proprietor moving to other premises, remedy of the defect was not pursued. In the case of the other defect "insufficient sanitary accommodation," which was not remedied in the year. Plans of the proposals were deposited with the Council, but were not proceeded with owing to sewage disposal difficulties. A new sewer is in hand to pass the particular property, and the works will then be carried out.

WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of one parish of some 34 properties, the whole of the District is served by Council main water from three deep wells and boreholes, and from one of the local colliery companies. The water is pumped to a series of service reservoirs from which it gravitates.

The following table shews the numbers of water samples submitted to the Public Analyst, his comments and the result of action taken during the year.

Source of Sample	Public Analyst's Comments	Result of action taken
Council main Polesworth, Atherstone, Grendon, Bentley.	High degree of purity and suitable for use as public supply	
Well	Unsafe for drinking	Owner having main water laid on
Well	Doubtful for drinking	Not accessible to mains. Advised boiling.
Well	Polluted and unfit	Main water laid on.
Well	Polluted and unfit	Not accessible to mains. Advised boiling.
Well	Polluted and unfit	Well cleansed, steining repaired and concrete area around head.
Well	Polluted and unfit	Not accessible to mains. Advised boiling.
Well	Polluted and unfit	Ditto ditto
Well	Polluted and unfit	Ditto ditto
Well	Polluted and unfit	Drain fractured and seepage to well. Well cleansed, drain made good, etc.
Well	Polluted and unfit	Serves school. Council main being extended and water laid on.
Spring	Fair quality	
Spring	Polluted and unfit	Cause was defective cover of underground storage tank. Remedied.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All houses where infectious diseases were notified were disinfected and the bedding, clothing, etc., passed through the steam disinfecter.

The homes of infectious tuberculous persons are similarly treated when a patient dies or is removed to sanatorium or changes address.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious disease exists is carried on from six premises in various parts of the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two premises in the district where the business of rag and bone dealing is carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year a Byelaw was made, and confirmed by the Minister of Health, prescribing that the emission of black smoke from a chimney of any building, other than a private house, for more than two minutes in any period of thirty minutes, shall be deemed to be a statutory nuisance, and a smoke nuisance.

Ten smoke observations were made during the year : the results are shewn in the following table.

Observation number	Minutes of Smoke		
	Black	Moderate	None or Slight
1	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	22
3	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
		100-ft. Stack	
5	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
6	29 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
7	7	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
		150-ft. Stack	
8	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	5
9	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

The first four observations were of the chimneys of hat factories, and six were of 100 feet and 150 feet stacks at an offending colliery. As will be seen, there was some improvement in the emission from the colliery, but low grade fuel used along with heavy load which had to be maintained prevented satisfactory smoke abatement results.

WORKS DONE AND NUISANCES ABATED AT PREMISES
(OTHER THAN FARMS AND DAIRIES) DURING THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1946.

HOUSING		EXTERNAL					
Walls—							
Taken down and re-built..		..	..	..	..	..	4
Raked and re-pointed or rendered		..	..	..	..	..	30
Door sills repaired or new fixed		..	..	..	..	..	7
Horizontal damp proof courses inserted		..	..	..	..	..	2
Vertical damp proofing of walls ..		..	..	..	..	..	10
Open areas constructed ..		..	..	..	..	..	—
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased		..	..	..	..	..	3
Roofs—							
Stripped and re-slatted or re-tiled		..	..	..	..	..	11
Repaired and made weather-proof		..	..	..	..	..	64
Torched ..		..	..	..	..	..	6
Skylights repaired ..		..	..	..	..	..	6
Gutterings—							
Repaired and or new provided and fixed		..	..	..	..	..	21
Downspouts							
Repaired and or new provided and fixed		..	..	..	..	..	12
Chimney Stacks							
Wholly or in part taken down and re-built		..	..	..	..	..	6
Raked and re-pointed ..		..	..	..	..	..	11
Pots provided and fixed ..		..	..	..	..	..	2
Yards, Courts and Passages							
Taken up and re-laid or concreted		..	..	..	..	..	15
Water Supply							
Laid on into houses ..		..	..	..	..	..	60
Standpipes removed ..		..	..	..	..	..	12
Wells dis-used ..		..	..	..	..	..	1
New pumps provided to wells ..		..	..	..	..	..	—
Wells cleansed ..		..	..	..	..	..	1
Wells repaired ..		..	..	..	..	..	1
Hot systems provided and fixed ..		..	..	..	..	..	1
“Furred-up” service replaced ..		..	..	..	..	..	5
Bursts repaired ..		..	..	..	..	..	22
Drainage—							
New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided		..	..	..	..	..	31
Defective drains re-laid ..		..	..	..	..	..	14
New inspection chambers constructed ..		..	..	..	..	..	5
Septic tanks repaired ..		..	..	..	..	..	2
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced		..	..	..	..	..	3

Cesspools repaired	1
New cesspools constructed	2
Ventilation shafts repaired	3
Cesspools cleansed	4
New gullies provided	21
Obstructed drains released	21
Septic tanks and percolating beds built	1
Closet Accommodation—	
Conversions to W.C.s	13
New W.C. compartments built	22
New W.C. pedestals fixed	12
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided	7
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments	11
Privies converted to pails	62
New pail closets built	1
Washing Accommodation—	
New wash-houses built	3
Dilapidated coppers repaired	19
New furnace pans fixed	16
Copper flues repaired	3
Water laid to wash-houses	—
Floors concreted	—
Ashes Accommodation—	
New ash bins provided	329
Ashpits put into dis-use	36
Outbuildings—	
Repaired	1
Fuel Stores—	
New constructed	12
INTERNAL	
Walls—	
Totally or in part re-plastered	84
Ceilings—	
Totally or in part re-plastered	69
Windows—	
Defective frames repaired or replaced	54
Windows re-corded	21
Doors—	
Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed	34
Floors—	
Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired	34
Defective skirtings replaced	4
Quarry floors re-laid	25
New concrete floors laid	—

Staircases —								
Woodwork repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Handrails provided and fixed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Fire Ranges and Grates—								
Repaired and/or new fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Sinks—								
New sinks provided and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
New wastes fitted or existing repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Sculleries—								
New constructed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pantries—								
Improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Smoke Abatement—								
Smoke nuisances remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
MISCELLANEOUS								
Premises rat-proofed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
Rat infested premises cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	169
Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Keeping of animals nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Food Preparing Premises—								
New making-up places built	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cleansed and improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
River pollution prevented	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New sanitary accommodation at factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Fire escape facilities at factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Water courses cleaned out	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

